REMARKS

Claim 1 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and incorporated into claims 2 and 3. Claims 17-33 have been cancelled as being directed to a non-elected invention. Claim 34 has been added. Claims 2-16 and 34 are active in the application.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 USC 102(b) over Schuster. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Schuster in view of Curry, Jr., while claims 3, 4, 5 and 6 are rejected over Schuster, Curry Jr. and Kolsky. Claim 8 is rejected as above in further view of Dhority et al.

As shown in Figures 4 and 5 of Schuster, the cylindrical cover **12** packs a wine bottle **29** and wine glasses **21** and **23**, which do not have a cylindrical shape over their whole lengths. Also, the cylindrical cover **12** of Schuster does not pack a glass base material of an optical fiber. As amended, the present claims recite that the glass base material has a cylindrical shape over its whole length, as shown in Figs. 9 and 10 of the application. Thus, the difference between the amended claims and Schuster is clear. It would not have been obvious to practice the claimed packing method in view of the wine bottle and glasses of Schuster.

As claimed, the glass base material **10** is rolled up with air packing material. Schuster and Kolsky do not disclose or suggest rolling up a glass base material with air packing material, and so the obviousness rejection should be withdrawn.

As shown in Figs. 4 and 5 of Schuster, the cylindrical cover **12** packs a wine bottle **29** and wine glasses **21** and **23**, the weight of which is smaller than the glass base material of the present invention. Therefore, the cylindrical cover **12** of Schuster is made of cloth (col. 2, line 1-2) that does not have to be rigid enough to withstand the load of the contents inside the cylindrical cover.

On the other hand, the cylindrical container **16** of the present application is rigid enough to withstand "the load form the glass base material." The weight of such material having a 20 mm diameter and 1m length is usually 700 g, and the weight of that with 60 mm diameter and 1m length is about 6500 g; at 80 mm diameter and 1m length the weight is about 11,600 g. It is clear that a person of skill

in the art would not modify the teachings of Schuster, which deal with wine bottles, to arrive at the optical fiber packing method of the present invention.

Applicants submit that the case is now in condition for allowance. Early notification of such action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

By _____

Robert W. Hahl, Ph.D.
Reg. No.: 33893
Tel. No.: (703) 905-2251
Fax No.: (703) 905-2500

RWH/mll
1600 Tysons Boulevard
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 905-2000

Appendix With Markings to Show Changes

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claim 1.

2. (Amended). [A method of packing a glass base material as claimed in claim 1, wherein said packing has:

putting said glass base material into a plastic bag; and

packing said glass base material, which is put into said plastic gab, into said cylindrical container]

A method of packing a glass base material, which is a base material of an optical fiber, comprising:

putting said glass base material having a cylindrical shape over its whole length into a plastic bag; and

packing said glass base material which has been put in a plastic bag into a cylindrical container, which container is rigid enough to withstand a load from said glass base material.

3. (Amended) [A method of packing a glass base material as claimed in claim 2, wherein said packing further has:

wrapping said glass base material, which is put into said plastic bag, with air packing material, which contains air inside; and

packing said glass base material wrapped with said air packing material into said cylindrical container]

A method of packing a glass base material, which is a base material of an optical fiber, comprising;

rolling up said glass base material having a cylindrical shape over its whole length with air packing material that contains air inside; and

packing said glass base material rolled up with said air packing material into a cylindrical container, which container is rigid enough to withstand a load from said glass base material.

4. (Amended) A method of packing a glass base material as claimed in claim 3, wherein said [wrapping wraps] rolling up step rolls up said glass base material, which is put into said plastic bag, with three-layers of said air packing material.

34. (New) A method of packing a glass base material as claimed in claim 2 or 3, wherein said cylindrical container is made of at least one of material selected from the group consisting of cardboard, plastic, cardboardplastic, wood and metal.

End of Appendix